

Appln. Serial No. 10/092,335
Reply to Office Action Dated June 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An illuminating waveguide assembly comprising:
a waveguide that includes an elongated solid light transmitting body having:

a first portion extending lengthwise along said body and having a light transmissive surface, and

a second portion extending lengthwise along said body; and

a vehicle panel having an opening, said waveguide being positioned in said opening with said first portion being exposed at a front side of said panel and said second portion being located behind said panel;

wherein said first portion has a first cross-sectional shape and said second portion has a second, conic cross-sectional shape which directs internally-reflected light towards said first portion such that the light is diffusely transmitted through said opening and out of said body via said light-transmissive surface, said second cross-sectional shape being different in shape than said first cross-sectional shape.

2. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said first cross-sectional shape is conic, whereby said body has a compound conic cross-sectional shape.

3. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said light transmitting body is made of transparent plastic.

4. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 3, wherein the light transmitting body is made of acrylic.

5. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said second portion comprises a reflector.

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6. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 5, further comprising a reflective coating on said second portion.
7. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said second cross-sectional shape has at least one focal point.
8. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 7, wherein said second cross-sectional shape is parabolic.
9. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said second cross-sectional shape is faceted.
10. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said first cross-sectional shape is semi-circular.
11. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said first cross-sectional shape is rectilinear.
12. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein the light-transmissive surface of said first portion extends circumferentially around a first side of said body from a first angular location to a second angular location and wherein said second portion has a surface that extends circumferentially around an opposite side of said body from said first angular location to said second angular location.
13. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of mounting flanges extending laterally away from said body at said first and second angular locations, wherein said waveguide is attached to said vehicle panel via said mounting flanges.

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14. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide assembly of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions extend from a first end of said elongated body to a second end of said elongated body.

15. (Previously Presented) An illuminating waveguide, comprising:
an elongated solid light transmitting body having:

a first portion extending lengthwise along said body and having a first surface,
and

a second portion extending lengthwise along said body and having a second surface;

wherein said first surface is transmissive to light and said second portion has a conic cross-sectional shape to thereby direct light internally reflecting off said second surface towards said first surface, with the reflected light being diffusely transmitted out of said body through said first surface; and

wherein said first portion and said second portion define the uppermost and lowermost portions of said waveguide respectively.

16. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said first portion has a conic cross-sectional shape.

17. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said light transmitting body is made of transparent plastic.

18. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 17, wherein said light transmitting body is made of acrylic.

19. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said second portion comprises a reflector.

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20. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 19, further comprising a reflective coating on said second portion.
21. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said conic cross-section shape of said second portion has at least one focal point.
22. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said conic cross-sectional shape of said second portion is faceted.
23. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said first portion has a semi-circular cross-sectional shape.
24. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said first surface of said first portion is rectilinear.
25. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said first surface extends circumferentially around a first side body from a first angular location to a second angular location and wherein said second surface extends circumferentially around an opposite side of said body from said first angular location to said angular location.
26. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of mounting flanges extending laterally away from said body at said first and second angular locations.
27. (Original) The illuminating waveguide of claim 15, wherein said first and second portions extend from a first end of said elongated body to a second end of said elongated body.
28. (Currently Amended) An illuminating waveguide comprising:
an elongated solid light transmitting body having:

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a first portion extending lengthwise along said body and having a light-transmissive surface, and

a second portion extending lengthwise along said body;

mounting features located proximate the intersection of said first and second portions of said light transmitting body, at least two of said mounting features being spaced from each other and extending laterally away from said body; and

a reflective coating on said second portion extending circumferentially from one of said mounting features to another of said mounting features;

wherein said first portion has a first cross-sectional shape and said second portion has a second cross-sectional shape which directs internally-reflected light towards said first portion for transmission out of said body through said light-transmissive surface, said second cross-sectional shape being different in shape than said first cross-sectional shape[.]; and

wherein said first and second portions and said mounting features each having a consistent cross-sectional shape along substantially the entire elongated length of said body.

29. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide of claim 28, wherein said mounting features are elongated flanges that are integrally formed with said body, said flanges extending lengthwise along at least a portion of said body.

30. (Currently Amended) An illuminating waveguide comprising:
an elongated solid light transmitting body having:

a first portion extending lengthwise along said body and having a light-transmissive surface, and

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a second portion extending lengthwise along said body; and
a plurality of mounting features each extending laterally away from said body
from a distal end to a free end;
wherein said free ends of at least two of said mounting features are spaced from
each other with said body being located within the space between said free ends; and
wherein said first portion has a first cross-sectional shape and said second portion
has a second cross-sectional shape which directs internally-reflected light towards said
first portion for transmission out of said body through said light-transmissive surface,
said second cross-sectional shape being different in shape than said first cross-sectional
shape[.]; and

wherein said first and second portions and said mounting features each having a
consistent cross-sectional shape along substantially the entire elongated length of said
body.

31. (Previously Presented) The illuminating waveguide of claim 30, wherein
said mounting feature(s) are elongated flanges that are located proximate the intersection
of said first and second portions of said body, said flanges extending lengthwise along at
least a portion of said body.